



Grocer—"I may sell dishonest goods, but I want honest money."

SMALL CHANGE.

The Democrats of Ohio, following in the lead of those in Kentucky, have pronounced by a large majority in favor of honest money. Six months ago the free silver people of these States supposed they were so strong that no party would dare oppose them; to-day they feel the ground slipping from under them and a growing dizziness in their 16 to 1 heads. The absurdity of their position and the falsity of many of their claims is becoming apparent to all who think with sound minds. The common sense of the people, when appealed to, is the best safe-guard against fiat money legislation.

The advocates of free silver seem to think that the small bulk of gold, as compared with the total amount of property in the country, is a reason for adopting the silver standard. They might as well complain that the small quantity of mercury in the world, as compared with all the weather to be measured, renders it unfit to serve as a means of indicating the temperature. Just as a very little mercury may be used to measure all the changes from extreme heat to severe cold, so a small bulk of valuable metal will serve as a measure of a great deal of property. It is quality, not quantity, which is most desirable in the standard of values.

Silverites cannot understand how the increasing production of gold should cause a decline in the value of silver. Full of their idea that it is the relative quantity of the metals mined which fixes the ratio between them, they insist that as the annual gold product is growing larger, the value of gold as compared with silver should fall. One reason why increased production of gold means cheaper silver is that as gold is the more suitable money metal, larger supplies of it enable countries formerly using silver money to replace it with gold. The extensive production of petroleum, as compared with whale oil, did not have the effect of making whale oil dearer. So the general adoption of gold as money will not increase the value of silver.

Inequalities in the distribution of wealth may exist in our present social system, but it is certain that no change in the material used to measure wealth will do anything to help those who now are poor. The silverites indulge in glowing generalities about the wonderful prosperity which will follow the adoption of the 16 to 1 panacea, but are always careful to avoid giving particulars as to how the predicted change will come about. No advocate of free coinage has yet attempted to explain how the men who have no property would have a chance to get some under the silver standard, if, as its friends claim, the price of all kinds of property would be doubled. A scheme for the relief of the poor which proposes to put property further out of their reach, should be easily seen through by those whom the silver mine owners' agents pretend to be desirous of helping.

Free Silver in Kentucky.

No amount of windy oratory will inflate the free silver fire in Kentucky. It is punctured beyond repair.



Painter—"My customers would kick if they knew I was substituting cheap for dear material. I don't need to be told who are back of the American Bi-metallic League."

BRUDDER JOHNSING A PUPIL OF COIN.

"I been wantin' to ax you, Brudder Johnsing, whedder you's read de new work entitled 'Coin's Financial School,' and what yo' done think about it."

"Has I read it, Brudder Simpasing? Doan' yo' recollect dat I 'tended de school myself 'long wid Jay Gole, ole man Vanderbilt, and the whole passel of dem big bugs dat has some finances obder own to financier wid?"

"Say, yo' doan' mean to say dat Gole and Vanderbilt war dar, when dey been dead years befo'?" "Sides I hain't nevah mist yo' out ob de town long enough foh yo' to get up dar an' back."

"Dat meck no difference, Brudder Simpasing. I war jes' as much dar as any ob de fellahs de book say war dar, and so war Gole an' Vanderbilt, and de next time yo' runs across Lime Gage, the big goldbug banker, or Walsh, anoder Chicago banker, or Coal Scuttle, yo' ax 'em if I wasn't dar just de same time dey war."

"Well, I guess dat settle it dat yo' war dar, Brudder Johnsing. But I want to ax yo' ef dat little kid did get away wid all dem big bankahs and pollytishners in the argyument like de book say?"

"Indeed he did, sah, jes' as suah as dey war dar, and his ansahs please de augence montley. Say, yo' recollect dat Walsh, I believe it war, ax him dis heah question: 'How kin de Govahment by a simple ac' ob Congress raise de price ob any article?' Den yo' recollect dat Coin say, 'you wasn't heah yestedy?' and when

The Anti-Cheap Man.

"The fact is, we want nothing cheap but money," is the frank declaration of the National Watchman, a leading cheap money organ. Of course not. The editor of that paper wants things scarce and dear. Cheapness means easy production, so he wants things to be hard to get. His wife may buy goods when they are marked down, but he waits to buy when prices are way up. He always hires the printers who do the least work for the most wages, pays the highest prices for the poorest paper, and never thinks of such wicked inventions as labor saving presses. He travels by stage coach instead of railroad, and he uses candles because their light costs more than that from oil. He always buys in the dearest market, and would shudder at the idea of getting anything at a bargain. Like a true American, he never tries to think of some way of doing work easier, for that would mean that things would become cheaper. He is a consistent, straight-out advocate of everything dear but money, and that he wants as cheap (and as poor) as it can be made.

A Query.

If the Government should coin \$50,000,000 a month in legal tender silver dollars how would the farmers of this section get any of it? Will some free silver advocate please answer?

The silver craze has been killed by that terrible enemy of the calamity howler, "General Prosperity," and will be buried by the side of its twin brother, the McKinley bill.

SAME KIND—DIFFER ONLY IN DEGREE.

(Ratio Depends on Supply of Gray Matter and Elasticity of Conscience)



Dairyman—"I practice what them free silver people preach; but I'd be ashamed to preach it like they do. I might stand 16 to 1, but the next thing would be 100 to 1, and that would run the whole business in the ground."

Walsh says he wasn't, Coin say, 'epose dis Govahment 'nounce dit am guine to purchase a hundred thousand mules for the hoss marines, kaint everybody see dat de price of mules is guine to bound up, and not only de mules de Government buy, but de hosses and mules to teok dar places, and dat am jes' de way de ack ob Congress am guine to ris up de price of silvah.' Well, jis' as all de schoolahs who had dar parts larnt war a swallowin' down, 'cordin' to de rule ob de school, the good-for-nuffin niggah what kep' de doah bus' out laffin' his bes'. 'What yo' laffin' at, yo' brack rasool?' says Coin. Den de niggah he say: 'Didn't you say totter day dis Govahment mus'n't buy silvah, 'kase buyin' made it a commodity, and silvah didn't want to be dat?' 'In cose I said so,' says Coin. 'An' didn't you say that all de Govahment got to do to foteh up silvah war to weigh it and put on de Govahment stamp?' 'In cose I did,' says Coin. 'Well, den, says de niggah, 'how much you 'epose de price ob mules would be riz ef, instead of buyin' and payin' down de spot cash for 'em, de Govahment only sent 'roun' a man wid a brandin' ir'n to bran' 'em 'U. S.' on de flank?' Den ole Hutch, who had been takin' a little nap on one of de back seats, got to laffin' and fell off, and dey got de news down to de Bode of Trade dat dar was a big tumble in wheat. So de next day Coin he 'pollygize to de school foh de niggah not havin' his pah't committed and comin' in wrong and spilin' de show, an' he say he gwine to hiah a new do' keepah ef he have to pay fo' bits mo' a week.'—Sigourney (La.) Review.

Where Silver is Well Thought Of.

First Church Member—"What are the charges agin' Deacon Jones?" Second Church Member—"Slanderin' tne parson. Said he was as good as gold."—Harper's Bazar.

Cotton is advancing and the free silver craze is declining.

Why Silver Has Fallen.

The silver men say it is because the United States demonetized silver in 1873, that it has gone down in value until the silver in our silver dollar is only worth 50 cents.

They conveniently forget that the United States was not the only Nation to demonetize silver in 1873. Germany also demonetized silver in 1873. France did the same in 1876, and India the same in 1893; and since 1871, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Holland, Russia, Austria, Switzerland and Belgium have ceased the free coinage of silver.

The action of these principal Nations of the earth has had at least as much effect on the fall in the price of silver as the action of the United States. But the great increase in the annual production of silver has had more effect on the decline in price than any demonetization by any country. The fall in the price of silver has simply kept pace with the increase of production, the same as anything else.

The average production of silver in the ten years prior to 1873 was, in round figures, \$50,000,000 each year, and the average price was \$1.32 an ounce. In 1886, the production had increased to \$120,000,000, and naturally the price had gone down to 99 cents an ounce. In 1892 and '93, the annual production had reached the enormous sum of \$196,000,000, and the price most naturally went down to 68 cents; and the most remarkable fact is that the fall in price has been in nearly exact proportion right straight through to the increase of annual production.

Will any fair-minded man assert in the face of these facts that increased production has no effect on the fall in price, but that demonetization of silver by the United States has alone produced this result?—From Dr. W. P. Hill's "Argument Against Free Silver Coinage at 16 to 1."

The silver question: Will you lend me a dollar?

A Serious Experiment.

The free coinage of silver and the substitution of a new unit and measure of value for the existing one in the business transactions of the country is not an ordinary experiment which can be safely tried to-day and abandoned to-morrow if found injurious, because the immediate consequences of such a step would be so far-reaching and so enduring that they would continue to be felt for years after the policy had been reversed. It is incumbent, therefore, upon those who insist upon the adoption of this revolutionary policy to show plainly and conclusively in advance not only that it would result in no injury, but that it would be positively beneficial, for if not positively beneficial the change would at least be wholly useless. This cannot be done by appeals to the excited passions and prejudices of the people, by attempts to array one class of our citizens or one section of our country against another, or by loose and extravagant statements unsupported by facts and reasons. The questions involved are too serious, the interests to be affected are too large and the common sense of the people is too strong to justify or even excuse this course of treatment.—Hon. John G. Carlisle.

Just principles will lead us to disregard the legal proportions altogether; to inquire into the market price of gold in the several countries with which we shall be principally connected in commerce, and to take an average from them.—Thomas Jefferson, on fixing a ratio.



Wine Merchant—"I do my mixing in the cellar. The silver mine owners should keep more in the background."

A WRONG DIAGNOSIS.

A doctor writing in the California Medical Journal asks: "What is the actual value of gold?" and answers his question by saying: "Simply a fictitious or fiat value, placed upon it by legislation." If this doctor knows no more about the science of medicine than he does of finance, his patients will have on excellent chance of testing the value of fiat drugs and pills, with possibly the result that they will recover quicker than if they swallowed real mixtures compounded according to his directions. And if he should have occasion to bring suit for professional services rendered, the patient could plead as a defense that the value of such services was merely a fictitious or fiat value, fixed by legislation.

The error into which this California doctor has fallen is one which is common to all cheap money advocates, and especially to silverites. They believe, or pretend to believe, that value is something created by law, and placed by Governments on gold, silver or paper. That it is purely a delusion can be seen by supposing the laws making gold the standard of value to be repealed. At once the natural laws of trade would force the selection by business men of some common measure of values. What would be the material need for such measure? Is it not certain that because of the very qualities which make gold the superior money, that metal would be used by far the largest number of persons? A few might use silver, but when they found that the rest were using gold, they would see the advantage of having the same standard as those with whom they traded. So that without any legislation gold would continue to be the standard money of the country.

The value of gold depends on the cost of production, and the demand for it both in the arts and for money, and if the supply continued as at present, its value would be the same. The Government's stamp puts no value into the gold coin, for the gold is worth as much as bullion as when coined. There is no possible way by which Government fiat can add a fictitious value to any substance. No silverite will pretend that legislation could make sixteen ounces of iron worth one ounce of copper, or that the value of either iron or copper is fictitious. And it is just as impossible for Government to give value to the two rarer metals, gold and silver. The Oakland doctor will have to make a new diagnosis of silver's weakness and the strength of gold.

Not From His Standpoint.

Populist—"How much did you say you owed, \$1000? Now, my friend with free silver, it will cost you only \$500 to pay that off." Farmer—"Umph! I'm afraid that wouldn't do me any good." Populist—"But why not?" Farmer—"I want to borrow \$1000 more."—Life.

Every day of bright sunshine injures the free silver crop.



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Insinuating Evils of Bad Money.

There are some political evils which are seen as soon as they are dangerous, and which alarm at once as well the people as the Government. Wars and invasions, therefore, are not always the most certain destroyers of National prosperity. They come in no questionable shape. They announce their own approach, and the general security is preserved by the general alarm. Not so with the evils of a debased coin, a depreciated paper currency, or a depressed and falling public credit. These insinuate themselves in the shape of facilities, accommodation and relief. They hold out the most fallacious hope of an easy payment of debts and a lighter burden of taxation.—Daniel Webster.

Free Silver in Mexico.

"Mexico has free coinage of silver. Mexico is on a silver basis."

"The wages in Mexico in mining and agriculture vary from 10 to 30 cents a day in Mexican money, which is from 5 to 15 cents in United States money."

"The average for farm labor a day in Mexico is 20 cents in Mexican money or 10 cents in United States money."

"If free silver can raise prices, why does it not raise the prices of wages in Mexico?"—Commercial Review, Green Bay, Wis.

"Yes, brethren and sisters," said the Western minister, in the course of the funeral sermon, "our dear brother has gone to the land where all things are known—even the truth about the coinage question, perhaps."—Indianapolis Tribune.

If living in mud huts, going half-clad, with children stark naked, and living on mesquite beans as they do in free silver Mexico, is what the 16 to 1 men call prosperity, we'll confess we are not yearning for it to any great extent.